

Faith Comes by Hearing -2

Rev. Michael J. Mattil using FCBH materials

Show video “**Every Tribe**”

“We hold the light!” I started last week’s message with that same video clip. It is a stark reminder of the consequences of not hearing and believing God’s Word. And that is why I gave everyone **audio Bibles last Sunday**. If you did not get one, we still have them available, and we have more of the KIDZ BIBLES now as well. I hope there are none left after services today! The reason we have them is to give them away. I’ve been listening this week, and I know many of you have, too. And it is not too late to start. If you will listen to the Bible for 28 minutes each day, in 40 days you will have listened to the entire New Testament! I am encouraging all of you to do this, taking part in this program and being reminded that Faith Comes by Hearing.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

I shared with you last week that this is a matter of literacy. In order for people to believe, they have to hear the message. If a person has never heard of God’s love in Christ, how can that person believe in Jesus? That is true whether we are talking about people in our neighborhood or people on the other side of the world. It is a message all people need to hear and believe. It is a message you have already heard and believed. And now it is our responsibility, as believers, to make sure that others have the chance to hear and believe. The Spirit of God will work through the Word – Faith Comes by Hearing – but how can they believe if they don’t hear?

Most of you are probably aware that Bible translators, like Wycliffe and Lutheran Bible Translators, have been busy working to put the Bible into the languages of people all over the world. This is good and necessary, and they are doing a marvelous work. But once the Bible has been translated, we still have to get the Word out to the people. And what about the people who cannot read? How can we share the message of God’s Word with them? That is where this Faith Comes by Hearing program enters the scene. They have done much more than produce English Audio Bibles. They are recording these new translations of the Bible in audio format. Just as you have been given a FREE audio Bible, Faith Comes by Hearing (FCBH) has been working to provide audio Bibles to people all over the world. And we, Grace Lutheran Church in Denison, Texas, those of us here today, we can help them provide these audio Bibles to people who have never heard the Good News of Jesus as their Savior.

Video #2 (demonstrate the **proclaimer** and some of the language samples.)

Today's lessons spoke of craving the pure spiritual milk of God's Word, (1 Peter 2:2-10) and Jesus proclaiming that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, with no one coming to the Father except through Him. (John 14:6). We want others to hear that Word, that message, that they might believe in Jesus and be saved. And we have the opportunity to help. Faith Comes by Hearing has asked us to help sponsor the recording of Scripture into **Balinese**. How many of you know that language? Do you have any idea where it is spoken? Bali is an island in **Indonesia**. (Show map of Indonesia, pointing out Island of Bali, then show map of **Bali**)

- The island of Bali has a population of 3.5 million,
- 93% of which is Hindu.
- Less than 2% are Christian.
- 20-30% of the population is illiterate.

We have the opportunity to help provide "Proclaimers" like the one I showed you that will allow people in Bali to hear God's Word in their own language. You heard on the video that it costs about **\$950** to record each book of the New Testament in a new language. Once that recording is made, it can be duplicated and put on "proclaimers" and distributed throughout the country. If 50 of our families would give a one time extra gift of \$20, we would have more than enough to sponsor an entire book of the New Testament being recorded in Balinese. Think about that – for a one time gift of less than it costs you to take your family out to dinner, you can sponsor a book of the Bible being recorded so that people can hear it – and we know that God has promised Faith comes by hearing.

I would like to encourage and challenge you to consider supporting this effort: Faith Comes by Hearing. As you continue to listen to your Bible in the coming weeks, think about the opportunity you have to allow others to hear this life changing, life-saving Word for themselves. If you would like to help with this, you can make an offering today or in the next week or so and mark it "Faith Comes by Hearing" or FCBH. Every penny you designate for this project will be forwarded to Hosanna Ministries to support the Good News of Jesus being recorded into Balinese.

Whether you give to this project financially or not, I hope you will all pray with me for the success of this program. **Let's do that now:** Father, we thank you for having spoken your Word to call creation into being and giving us life. We thank you that, in spite of our sin and rebellion, you have given Your Word made flesh to take our sin on Himself and pay our debt, giving us the certainty of forgiveness and life. And we thank you that your Spirit has worked through the Word to lead us to faith in Jesus. We pray for the success of Your Word being proclaimed to people of every nation and language and tribe and tongue, that all may be led by your Spirit to faith in Jesus and the assurance of forgiveness and salvation in His name. Amen.